



ABINGDON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Curriculum Overview
Year 8R (Scholarship) Spring Term
January - March 2026

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Academic Scholarship information Key Dates
<p>Term begins: Tuesday 6th January</p> <p>Parents' evening: Tuesday 24th February (17:20 - online)</p> <p>RSE Parent Webinar: Wednesday 25th February (18:00-19:00)</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 13th February (16.10)</p> <p>Half-term ends: Sunday 22nd February.</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 5th March</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 27th March (12.00).</p>	<p>Abingdon School</p> <p>Mock exams: Monday 12th to Thursday 15th January (at APS).</p> <p>Written exams - Monday 2nd March to Tuesday 3rd March (at AS).</p> <p>Interviews - from Wednesday 4th March (at AS).</p>

English	Maths	Science
<p>This term the pupils in 8R will study the following topics:</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will finish reading 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck paying particular attention to the themes of dreams, friendship and isolation. They will then study Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream' using this text to study various themes as well as the language and devices used by Shakespeare in his plays.</p> <p>Writing: Pupils will continue to learn the skills of critically analysing the texts that they read. They will also be given the opportunity to write a creative composition and found poems inspired by the writings of well known authors. They will continue to receive further practice in analysing unseen poems in preparation for their scholarship exams.</p> <p>Assessment: The pupils will be sitting their mock exams in early January in preparation for the final scholarship exams in early March. They will continue to receive guidance in how to analyse unseen poems. They will also receive further guidance and practice in composing a scholarship style creative writing composition.</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG): The pupils will continue to review key elements of SPaG during their feedback sessions as well as through discrete sessions.</p> <p>Speaking & listening: All pupils will be asked to prepare and perform one of Shakespeare's sonnets to a small or larger audience. They will be given the chance to recite and even act out scenes from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream'. They will be given targeted practice to help them prepare for their scholarship interviews.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will revise and practise skills and questions in a variety of topics in preparation for the upcoming scholarship examinations. Particular emphasis will be on the detail and logic of working.</p> <p>Number: They will recap calculating with decimals, fractions and negative numbers. They will use standard index form to write large and small numbers and revise the rules for indices. They will recap finding percentage amounts and use a multiplying factor to find percentage increase and decreases.</p> <p>Post-exams they will undertake an exploration of number bases, with a focus on base -3, through the NRICH 'Weights' investigation.</p> <p>Algebra: They will reinforce their knowledge of all algebra techniques covered, extending the work on simplifying to include fractions and indices.. Characterise sequences and find n^{th} term. They will solve simultaneous equations and apply to problems.</p> <p>Graphs: They will continue to investigate straight lines through simultaneous equations and (post-exams) quadratics - learning to use the calculator's 'table' function to find coordinates. Use online graphing software to model changes in quadratic equation coefficients.</p> <p>Shape and space: They will recap volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. They will practise solving problems involving circles. Revision will include calculating the area of triangles, trapeziums and parallelograms. Post exams, they will revisit rotating, reflecting and translating shapes and learn to accurately enlarge/ reduce shapes.</p> <p>Measures: They will revise Pythagoras' Theorem and the relationship between speed, distance and time.</p>	<p>Physics</p> <p>Waves: Pupils will learn about waves at the start of term, moving on from light to sound.</p> <p>Energy: They will then study energy, identifying the types of energy, considering the law of conservation of energy when looking at examples of energy changes. They will then consider renewable and non-renewable energy resources and how they can be used to generate electricity.</p> <p>Electricity and magnetism: The pupils will review these topics, which will include a look at static electricity.</p> <p>Revision: They will then have finished the syllabus and we will revise any areas that the pupils feel less confident about. The pupils will continue to practise scholarship questions.</p> <p>After the scholarship exams the pupils will work towards their Bronze Crest Awards. Here they will do an investigation into a topic of their choice. The aim is to develop their independent scientific enquiry skills.</p>
Geography	History	Religious Education (RE)
<p>This term the pupils will continue to prepare for their scholarship examinations with more focus on developing their essay skills for the new General Paper.</p> <p>After their mock examinations the pupils will start a new unit on contemporary conflicts and associated challenges. They will consider the causes of conflict, different types of conflict and examples of local and</p>	<p>This term the pupils in 8R will receive further practice in tackling evidence questions and essays, in readiness for the mock examinations and the upcoming scholarship General Paper.</p> <p>The pupils will be studying the reigns of King Richard I and King John. Pupils will look at a range of source materials and evaluate which of these reigns were more successful. They will examine the Crusades, analysing the reasons why people went on Crusades and focusing on both the 1st</p>	<p>The pupils will continue preparatory work for their scholarship examinations. The topics covered this term will include a selection of life issues including euthanasia, abortion, lying, stealing and truth.</p> <p>Following their examinations the pupils will start their study of Buddhism.</p>

regional conflicts around the world. They will also examine the impacts of conflict on the countries and regions involved.	and 3rd Crusades. Pupils will also look at the role of women in the Crusades.	
French The pupils will look at a number of past practice papers as they prepare for their mock scholarship exams, which will include reading and writing papers. After their mock examinations, there will be further practice of reading, writing and listening papers. Reading and listening Scholarship papers which will be based on a range of topics, but the written section is based on topics they have covered last term including school, family and free-time. Emphasis is placed on the correct use of the key grammar. After the exams, pupils will be reading <i>le petit nicolas</i> as a class reader, with a view to writing a book review.	Latin This term the pupils will continue their preparation for the scholarship examinations. Particular focus this term will be on revision, the formation and deep analysis of sentence structure, vocabulary building and translation skills. In the latter part of the term, pupils are introduced to further use of the passive voice and how this is constructed and translated.	Core Skills No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.
Computing Building on work undertaken in lessons at the end of Spring Term, pupils will work in pairs to use the programming language JavaScript to create a quiz on a topic of their choosing. Pupils will then evaluate, and where appropriate, debug and suggest improvements to, their fellow pupils' work. Pupils will also be introduced to the Applied Digital Skills series of activities provided by Google, which will help pupils to consolidate their ICT learning at Abingdon Prep.	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)/Relationship and Sex Education 8R will continue to develop their study skills ; learning different revision techniques and gain plenty of exam writing practice. Pupils will look at different types of relationships , covering issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, gender and how to negotiate social media effectively. They will also cover male body image , including the influence of the media.	General Studies In 8R General Studies will be taught discretely to PSHCE. As part of their preparations for the General Studies scholarship exam, the pupils will focus on likely topics of essay writing and interview discussion which intentionally cover aspects of the PSHCE programme, including themes of citizenship, social diversity and Fundamental British Values. The pupils will continue to develop the skills required to answer questions on the General Paper in Abingdon School's and Magdalen College School's series of scholarship examinations.
Art Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or DT sets for the first half of the year. The Art students will explore Architecture. They will experiment with a variety of media ranging from acrylic painting, collage and clay. The main topics this term will be: Recording from observation: The pupils will complete large observational drawings of architecture looking to international and local established artists for inspiration. Clay: They will complete the architecture project exploring structural embellishments, and create a 3d clay gargoyle.	Design Technology (DT) In DT this term Year 8 pupils will be working on 2 separate projects, each focussing on different skills using a variety of materials and processes. Mood lights: Pupils will be using CAD and CAM skills and a variety of wood and plastics to create a LED mood light. Students will be using the laser cutter to engrave images into acrylic and MDF. Bedroom Design: Pupils will be working on their graphic design skills and introduced into various forms of technical drawing, including perspective, isometric and Orthographic projection. Students will use these skills accompanied by CAD skills to create a bedroom design of their dreams!	Music and Drama Music: Pupils will revisit and revise Ukulele learning from Year 7, refining and exploring their technique, before moving on to developing their reading of TAB notation. Drama: During the first half of this term, pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre history and learn how much of what we see in the theatre today derives from the performance skills and techniques of Victorian melodrama. In the second half, preparations will begin for the Senior production, including auditions, scene blocking and character and story exploration.
Games This term's major team sports will be hockey and rugby . They will train for and play 7-a-side games. They will practise the following skills: passing, dribbling, shooting, tackling, positional play, tactics, and reading the game. They will have the opportunity to participate in inter-school and house matches. Pupils will follow the RFU and EH guidelines.	Physical Education (PE) Year 8 pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas this term: Hockey: They will develop their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting, and taking short corners. Basketball: The pupils will practise their passing in small groups using the pivot. They will improve their shooting and be introduced to the lay-up.	Swimming This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills: Breaststroke: Pupils will further develop their arm action, leg action, breathing and timing. Butterfly: They will be taught and given opportunities to develop how they kick, use their arms, start races and improve their turns. Assessment: Pupils will be assessed in their ability to swim both strokes.

